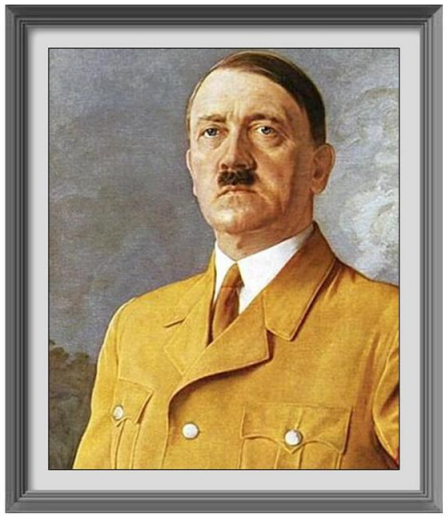
Adolf Hitler's image in propaganda and the mass media



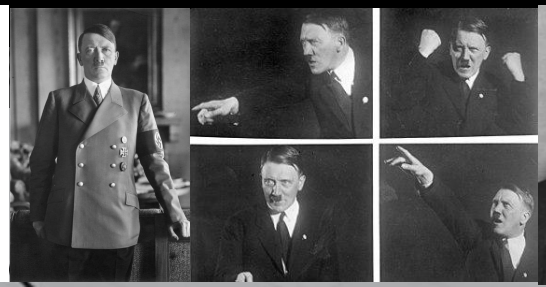
DONALD TRUMP

WANTS TO BE A DICTATOR

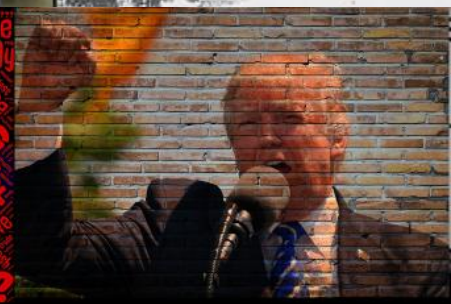
Preparing for a Dictatorship?

2025

2028



Hitler arranged for the Reichstag building in Berlin to be burned down as a pretext for enacting new laws.

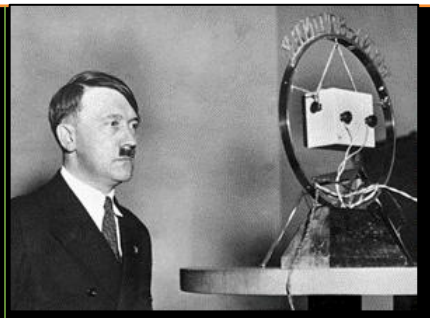


Preparing for a Dictatorship?

First sign: Attack the free word and media

I hate CNN.

Donald trump has shown his disgust for the media he doesn't like. He makes himself funny about the free word and the press. Some journalists have become harassed, purely verbal.



In Germany, cheap radios were manufactured so that the people could listen to the right message

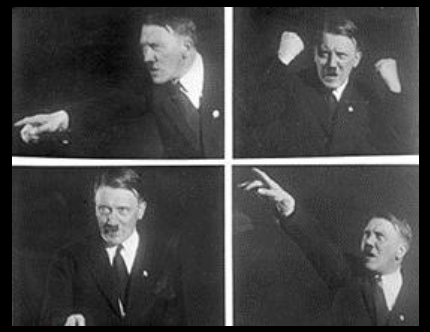
In Nazi Germany (1933-1945) propaganda was used, among other things, to spread anti-Semitism (Judaism) and to emphasize the perfection of Nazism and Adolf Hitler. ... propaganda in order to convince the population that the regime's thoughts and ideas are the only right.

Show power hold mass meetings

Donald Trump likes mass meetings. Glorious message of its own importance.
Create a strong group of loyal voters.
Riots (6 January 2021 Washington and four people killed) On CNN Trump named as a Sociopat.

When Joseph Goebbels stops at the desk on November day 1925 and picks up his pen, he is almost euphoric after his first meeting with Adolf Hitler.

"That man has everything it takes to be king," Goebbels writes enthusiastically in his diary, in which he also describes Hitler's "big blue eyes," which sparkle "like stars."



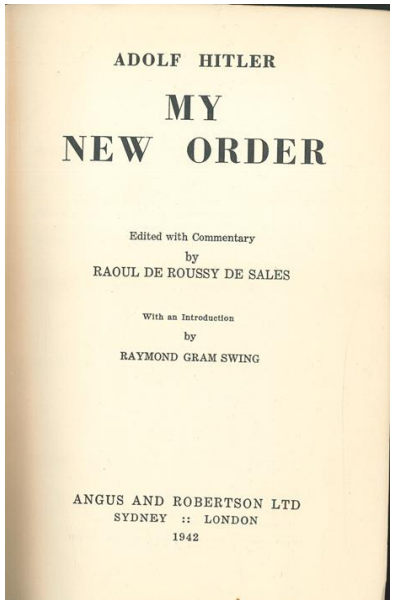
Adolf Hitler's image in propaganda and the mass media

Riefenstahl and a camera crew stand in front of Hitler's car during the 1934 rally in Nuremberg.

Barbara Walters interviewed Donald Trump in 1990.

She asked about Trump's interest in Hitler's speaking techniques.

Credible witnesses have said that he read the book and kept it by his bedside. He admired Hitler's speeches and it has been clear over the years that he loves rallies and speaking.
Books about Trump and Hitler exist and you often compare different techniques and see similarities.


ADOLF HITLER

MY
NEW ORDER

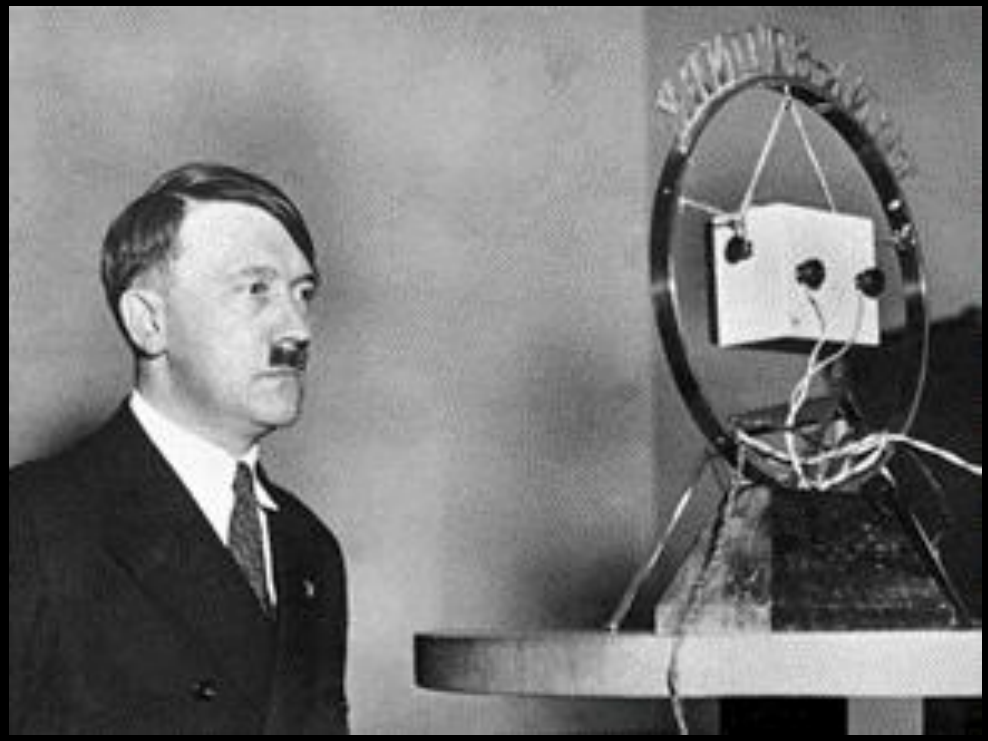
Edited with Commentary
by
RAOUL DE ROUSSY DE SALES

With an Introduction
by
RAYMOND GRAM SWING

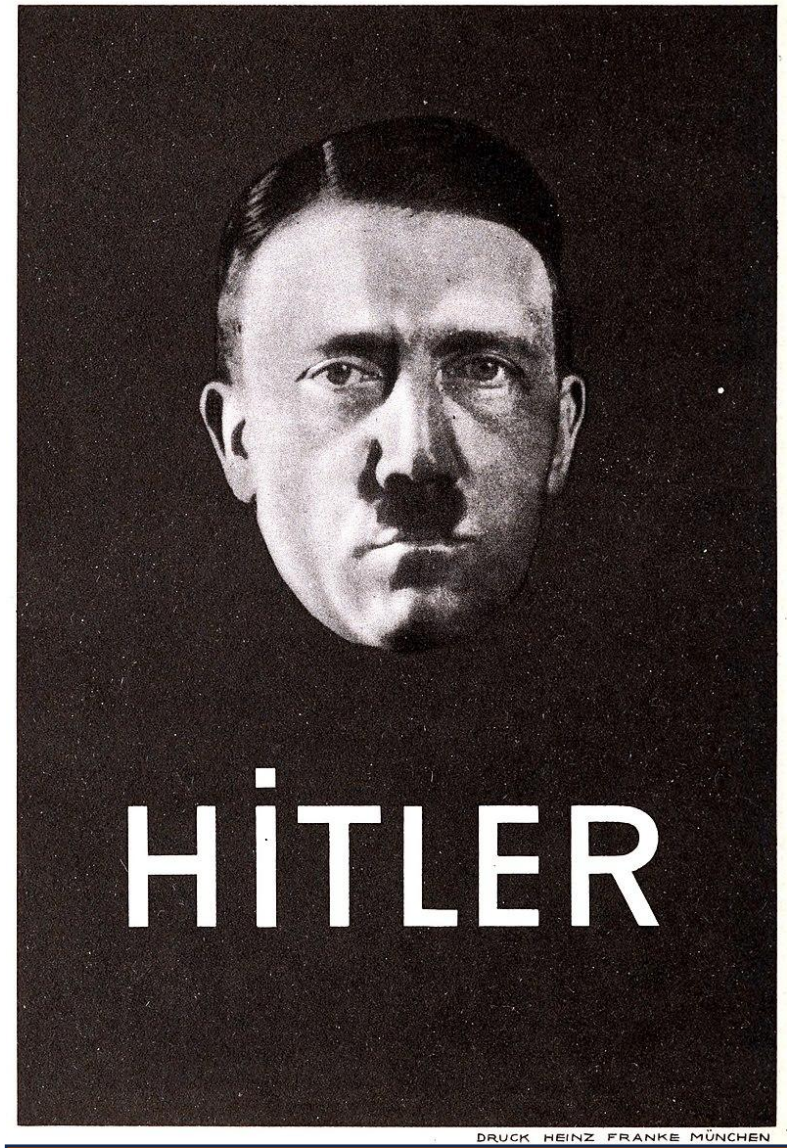
ANGUS AND ROBERTSON LTD
SYDNEY :: LONDON
1942

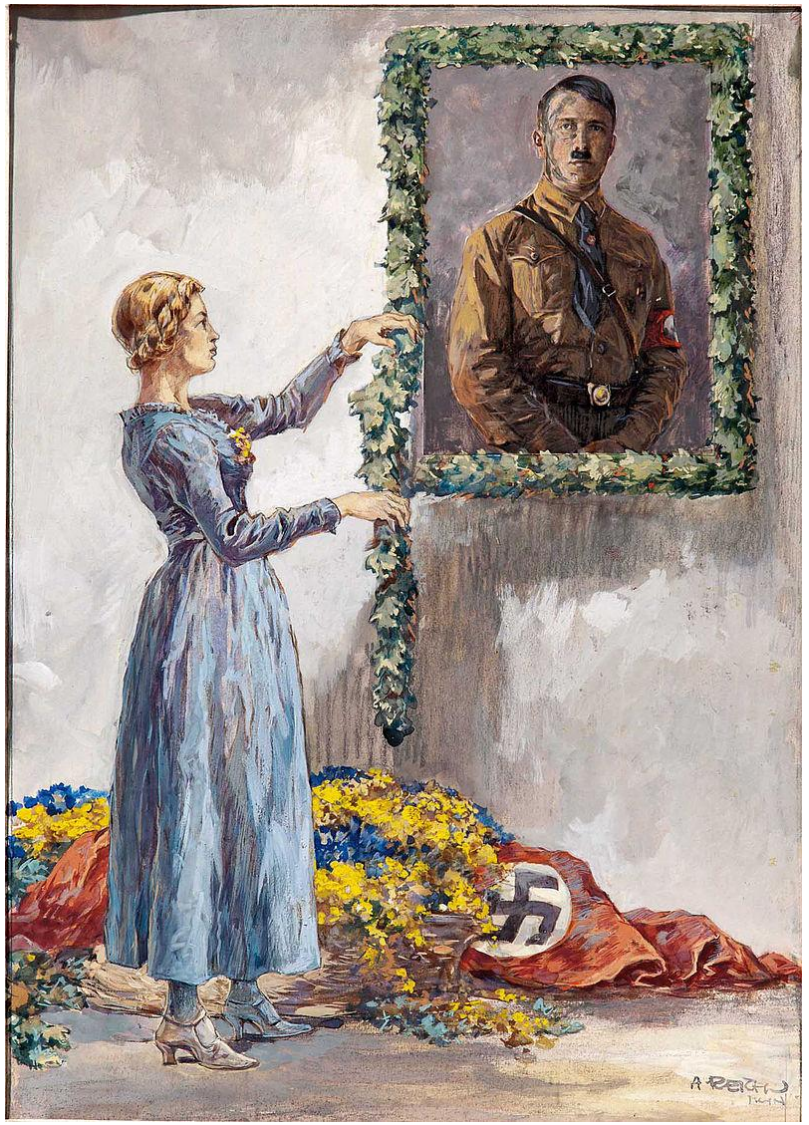
Find an enemy / danger

Immigrants from certain designated countries.



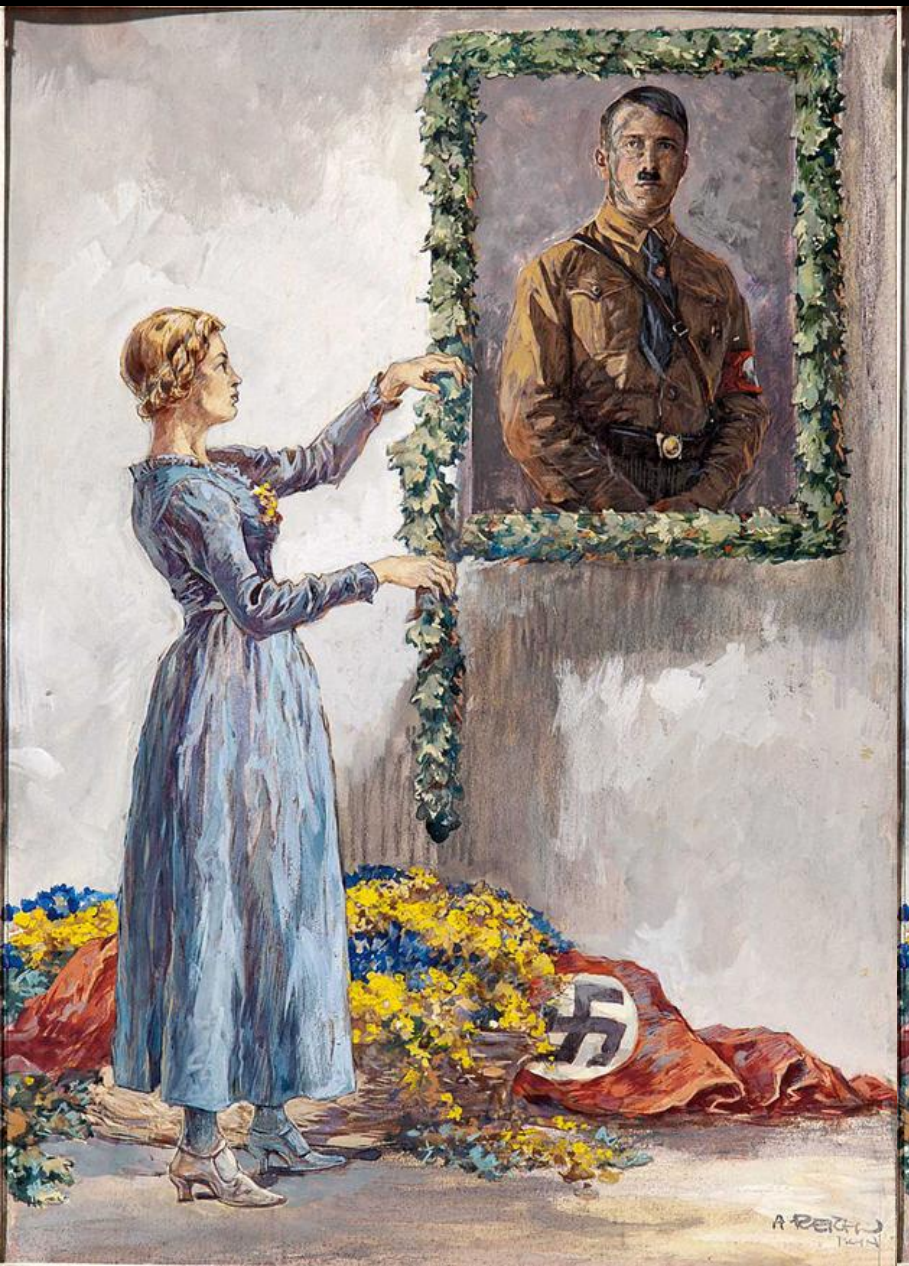
Lower standing people. Point out entire groups of people

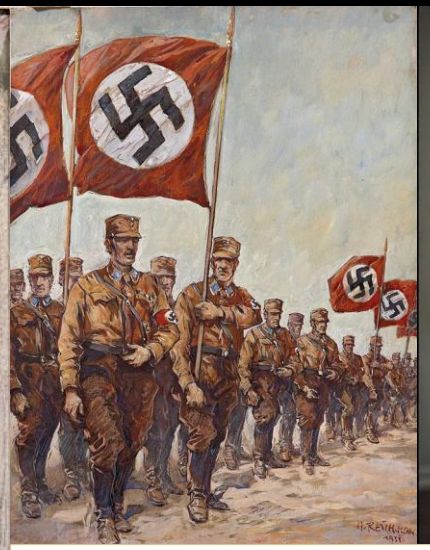




Albert Reich (January 14, 1881, Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz – April 12, 1942, Munich), was a German painter, graphic designer, draftsman and illustrator. During the First World War, he was attached as a war painter to the Alpenkorps. After the war, he joined the Nazi Party and contributed to its propaganda with paintings.

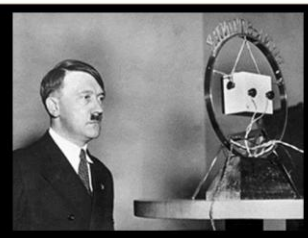
Adolf Hitler's image in propaganda and the mass media





Find an enemy / danger

Immigrants from certain designated countries.



Lower standing people. Point out entire groups of people

Hitler pointed to the Jeeews and Trump the Imigrants

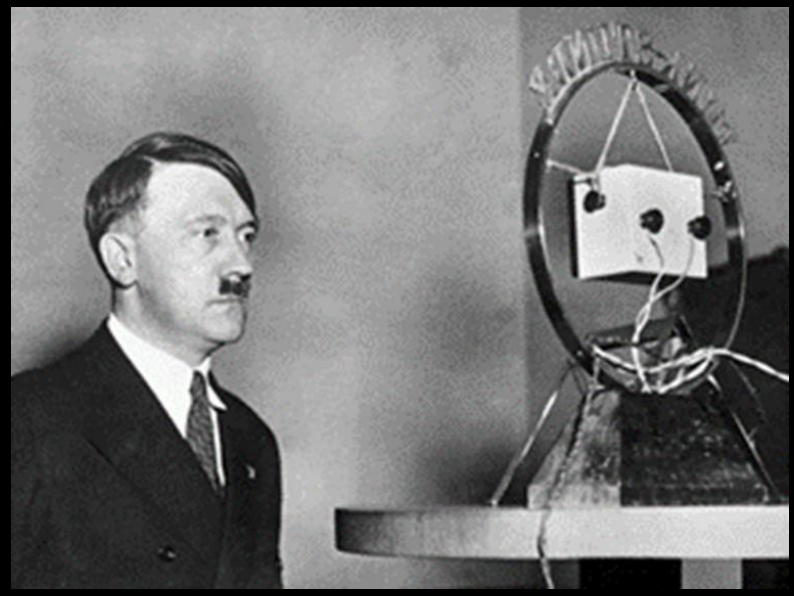
Present a given solution to that problem

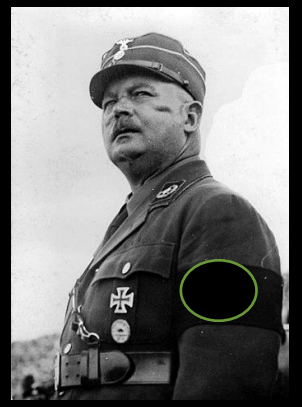
Close the boundaries of some countries' citizens. Build a wall.

Murder selected groups or people

Clear out among close co-workers

Clear out among close co-workers. Select anyone who says yes to Trump's proposal





He (Ernst Röhm) was murdered on the orders of Adolf Hitler during the cleansing operation called the Long Knives Night.

Organize competition for the defense force

ICE

MAGA

The United States Space Force or the United States Space Force (abbreviated USSF), since 2019, has been the defense branch responsible for space. MAGA 15 % paramilitant and ICE used like almost SA in Germany 1933 – 1940.

Schutzstaffel, which literally means the Security Division (SS) was a paramilitary fighting organization with elite personnel belonging to the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP). The organization was recognized after the war for its extensive crimes, especially in connection with the Holocaust.

Take control of the courts

Donald Trump may influence the court's direction by favoring some new judges

Volksgerichtshof

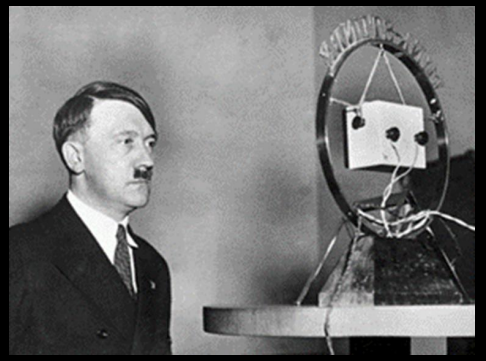
The Court handed down an enormous number of death sentences under Judge-President Roland Freisler, including those that followed the plot to kill Hitler on 20 July 1944. Many of those found guilty by the Court were executed in Plötzensee Prison in Berlin.

Cheat at all costs in elections. Feel free to put democracy at risk.

566 former prosecuters Belives Donald Trump did felony

566 former prosecutors signed a letter Medium and they take stock of the president's actions during the so-called Russia investigation.

"Each of us believes that President Trump's actions, as described in Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller's report, would have resulted in several felony charges of trying to obstruct justice if it touched another person who was not protected by the rules of a sitting president, "the prosecutors write.



In 1924, Hitler was sentenced to the sentence, five years in prison for coup d'etat.

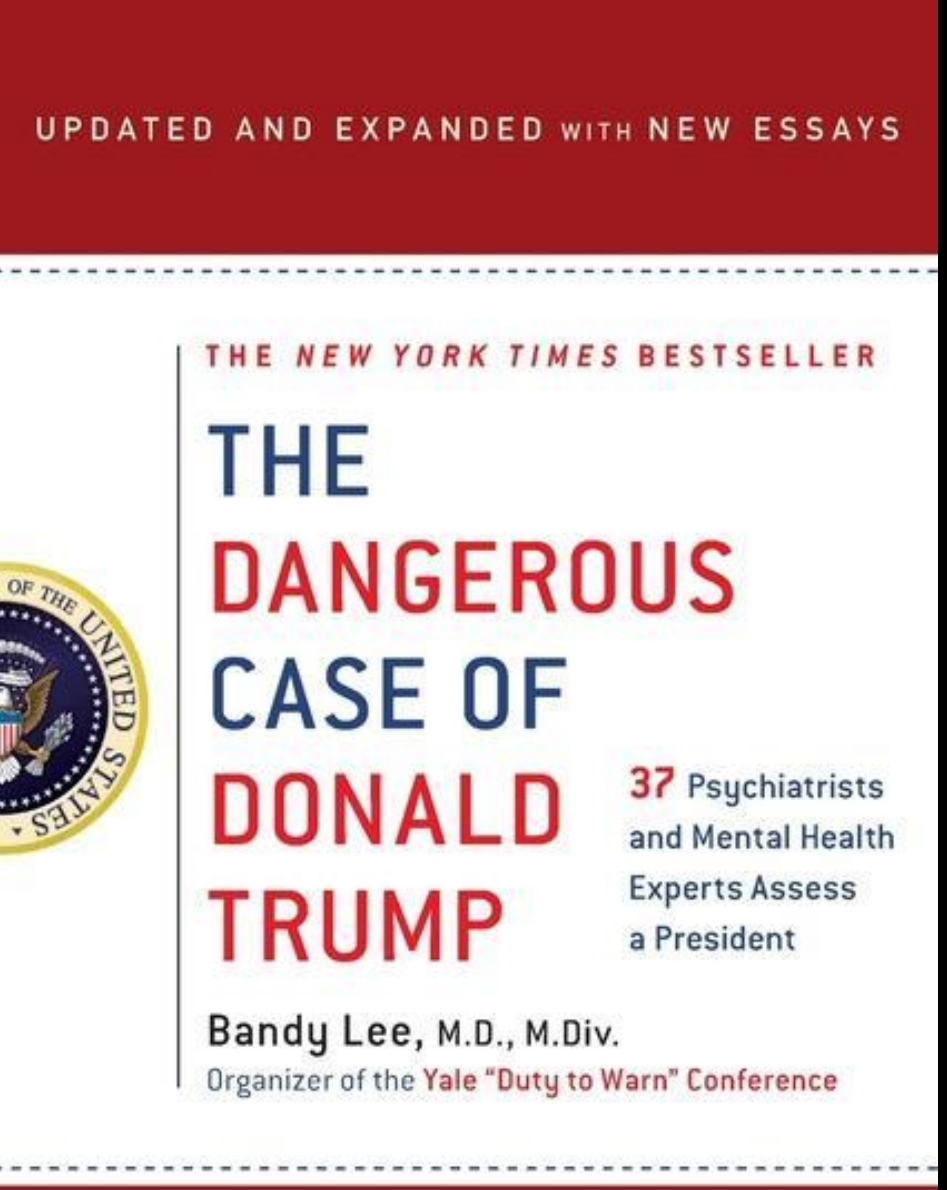
Leader	Adolf Hitler	Otto Wels	Ernst Thälmann
Party	NSDAP	SPD	KPD
Election	33.09%	20.43%	16.86%

This would be the last contested election held in Germany before World War II. Two weeks after the election, Hitler was able to pass an Enabling Act on 23 March with the support of all non-socialist parties, which effectively gave Hitler dictatorial powers. Within months, the Nazis banned all other parties and turned the Reichstag into a rubberstamp legislature comprising only Nazis and pro-Nazi guests.

Sociopath?

Experts warn in book for Trump. In it, 37 of the country's foremost psychiatrists, psychologists and other mental health experts write about how they view the president. Theories of pathological narcissism (self-acceptance) and hedonism (pleasure pleasure) are presented. The experts write that it is their moral duty to warn his countrymen of the president - and what he is doing to the United States.

Dictatur, massmurderer, sociopat, Incompetent leader.


UPDATED AND EXPANDED WITH NEW ESSAYS
THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
THE DANGEROUS CASE OF DONALD TRUMP
37 Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts Assess a President
Bandy Lee, M.D., M.Div.
Organizer of the Yale "Duty to Warn" Conference

The authors were absolutely right! Donald Trump is a danger to the world's democracies

The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump is a 2017 book edited by Bandy X. Lee, a forensic psychiatrist, containing essays from 37 psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health professionals describing the "clear and present danger" that US President Donald Trump's mental health poses to the "nation and individual well being". A second edition updated and expanded the book with additional essays. Lee maintains that the book remains strictly a public service, and all royalties were donated to the public good to remove any conflict of interest.

The authors argue that Trump's mental health affects the mental health of the people of the United States and that he places the country at grave risk of involving it in a war and of undermining democracy itself due to his dangerous pathology.

Consequently, the authors claim that Trump's presidency represents an emergency which not only allows but requires psychiatrists in the United States to raise alarms.

In a blog post republished on Salon in September 2017, journalist Bill Moyers wrote that "there will not be a book published this fall more urgent, important, or controversial than The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump".

‘The Press Has Sanewashed Trump’s Dementia and Mental Illness’: Dr. John Gartner The psychologist and founder of Duty to Warn says the aging Trump has dementia and is severely mentally ill. The founder of Duty to Warn says ‘Trump is the American Hitler, and immigrants are the new Jews’

As founder of the group Duty to Warn, founded in 2017 by mental health professionals and laypeople to warn the community-at-large of impending danger, Gartner has long spoken out about Donald Trump’s unfitness to be president. He has contributed to psychiatrist Bandy X. Lee’s bestselling anthology The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump: 37 Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts Assess a President, appears regularly on television and shows like Meidas Touch to discuss the threat of a Trump presidency, and co-hosts the Shrinking Trump Podcast and companion YouTube show with psychologist Harry Segal of Cornell University.

“There is absolutely no doubt Trump has dementia. He is losing his capacity for coherent speech and has difficulty even finishing a sentence.” Trump is the American Hitler, and immigrants are the new Jews. He is persecuting immigrants the way Hitler persecuted Jews, and we are watching our society do nothing to protect them.

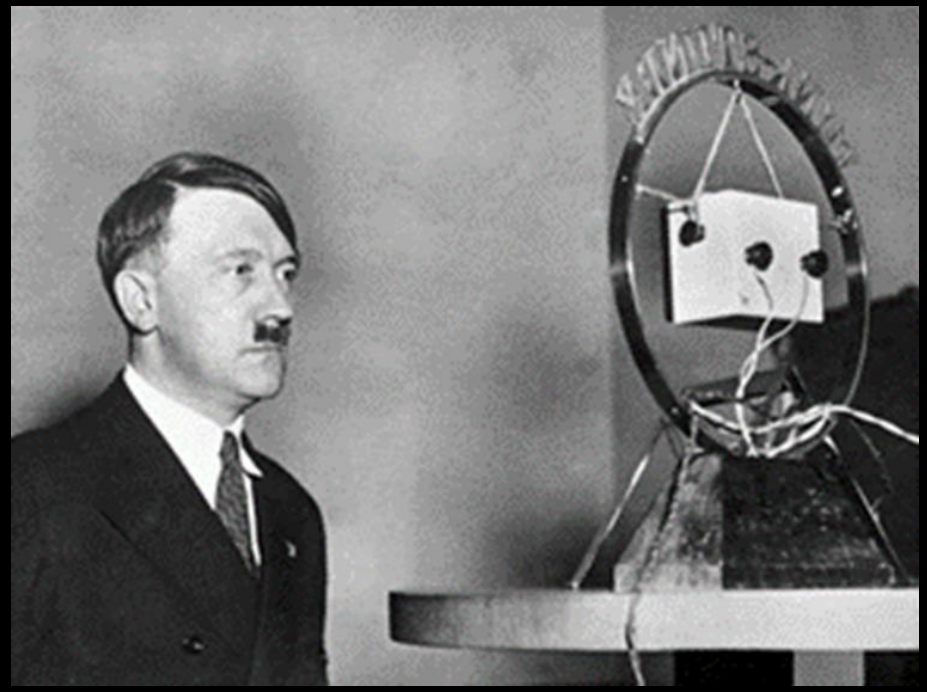
Racist?

A person who shows or feels discrimination or prejudice against people of other races, or who believes that a particular race is superior to another.

"Why do we let all these people from **'shithole countries'** come here?" Were the words of the president according to two politicians who were at the meeting, the Washington Post writes.

Yes

A person who shows or feels discrimination or prejudice against people of other races, or who believes that a particular race is superior to another.



Yes

Danger to democracy

Willing ignorance might be a generous way to describe President Trump's worldview. Given of how much of his day is spent consuming media, and producing it in the form of his Twitter feed, his curiosity and consumption habits have become a matter of national security. The Russians don't need spies in the White House if their disinformation campaigns find a host in the Oval Office.

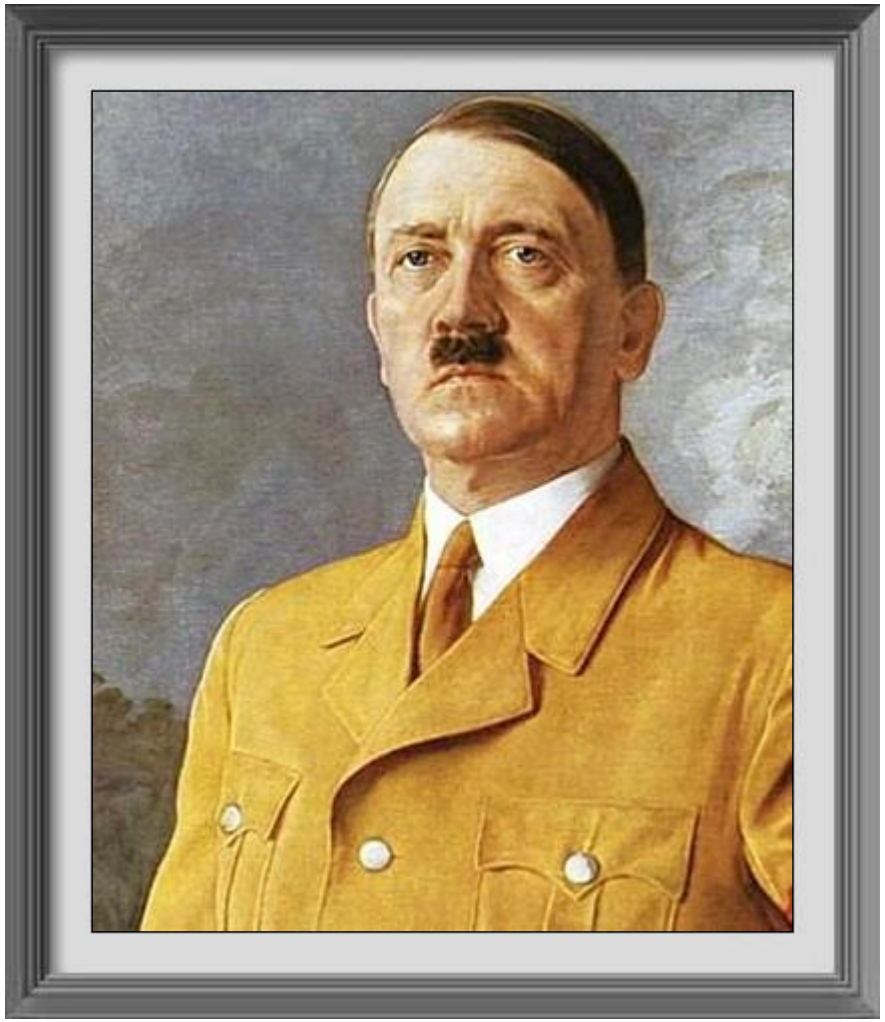
The Democrats: Trump a clear threat to democracy

Prison Camps

Alligator Alcatraz is an immigration detention facility erected at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport inside Big Cypress National Preserve in Ochopee, Florida, United States.

Mauthausen was a German Nazi concentration camp on a hill above the market town of Mauthausen

Adolf Hitler's image in propaganda and the mass media



DONALD TRUMP

WANTS TO BE A DICTATOR

Adolf Hitler's image in propaganda and the mass media

Beginning in the early years of the Nazi Party, Nazi propaganda depicted the Nazi leader Adolf Hitler as an iconic figure who was the only person capable of saving Germany. Following the end of World War I and during the interwar period, the German people suffered greatly under the Weimar Republic and, according to the Nazis, only Hitler as a messiah could save them and restore Germany's greatness, which in turn gave rise to the myth of the "Führer-cult". As early as a few days after Benito Mussolini's "March on Rome" on 28 October 1922, a Nazi Party speaker announced to a beer-hall crowd that "Germany's Mussolini is called Adolf Hitler", thus giving a boost to Hitler's cult of personality, which was only just getting started. In December 1922, the Nazi newspaper Völkischer Beobachter claimed that Hitler was no longer the drummer of the Nazi Party, but was in fact the only leader who could rescue Germany. During the 1932 German presidential election the Nazis pioneered new campaigning tactics, such as direct mailing and transporting Hitler across the country by airplane, allowing him to perform at several rallies in a single day. The myth also gave rise to the concept behind the saying "If only the Führer knew": when the German people were dissatisfied with the way the country was being run, they blamed it on Nazi bigwigs but fell short of laying any blame on Hitler himself, instead exempting him from culpability. They believed that if Hitler knew what was happening, he would set things right.

The cult of leader was evidenced in Nazi propaganda films by Leni Riefenstahl, such as 1935's Triumph of the Will, which Hitler ordered to be made. The film showed the 1934 Nuremberg Rally, which was attended by over 700,000 supporters, and is one of the first examples of the Hitler myth filmed and put into full effect during Nazi Germany.

Adolf Hitler's image in propaganda and the mass media

The "Führer Myth" utilized propaganda and the Führerprinzip to portray Hitler as an infallible genius who was above party politics, and was totally dedicated to protecting and saving the German people from both insidious outside forces, such as "Jewish Bolshevism", and from internal factors such as conservative, centrist and liberal politics and politicians who supported democracy and were the backbone of the Weimar Republic. To a lesser extent, religion was included in the Nazi's litany of destructive internal forces, but because the German people – both Protestants and Roman Catholics – were very attached to their religious beliefs, this aspect of Nazi ideology was soft-pedaled, and its presentation was inconsistent.

The power of the myth was so embedded into German society that the ballot cards for elections and plebiscites in the early 1930s did not refer to the "Nazi Party" but rather the "Hitler Movement". Although "National Socialism" had been used by other political parties before the rise of the Nazis, Nazism was Hitlerism in simple terms. (compare Trumpism) During the 1930s, Hitler's popularity was largely due to the Führer myth being accepted by a majority of Germans. Most Germans sought recovery, security and prosperity, and Hitler seemed to offer all of those things. Most Germans approved of his socio-economic policies and the draconian measures against those regarded as "enemies" of the state because the Nazis appeared to have the solutions to all of Germany's problems. The Führer myth enabled the Schutzstaffel (SS) to carry out terror among the German population, because it went largely unnoticed, due to the enthusiasm for Hitler and the Nazi regime. The myth helped Germans to view Hitler as a statesman who was determined to "save" Germany from the scourge of "Jewish Bolshevism", which is how the Nazis and other ultra-nationalists referred to Marxism and communism. To some extent, the myth contributed to Germans accepting or overlooking the Nazi's policies towards Jews.

Adolf Hitler's image in propaganda and the mass media

Hitler himself – along with Joseph Goebbels – was a significant contributor to the creation of the myth. Hitler understood the importance of propaganda and the need to create an aura about himself.[40] Reflecting on the claims he had made in 1933 to the German people, Hitler said in 1938:

The German people should once again examine what I and my comrades have done in the five years since the first Reichstag election in March 1933. They will have to agree that the results have been unique in all history.

The Führer myth, along with the Führerprinzip, helped to curb internal crises within the Nazi Party, as Hitler himself said in 1935, "No, gentlemen. The Führer is the Party and the Party is the Führer". The myth also lent to the legitimacy of Nazism as a political ideology abroad. Although it was not the case, the myth gave credence to the idea that the Nazis had managed to integrate all Germans in society. The extent that the myth had penetrated into German society meant that it was nearly impossible for any German who read a newspaper, listened to a radio or watched any films to avoid it, since the Nazis owned all of the media and they determined what Germans were able to read and watch. The Führer myth was a double-sided phenomenon. On the one hand, Nazi propaganda worked continuously to convey an image of Hitler as a heroic figure who made all of the right choices. On the other hand, it can be seen as observation of value-systems and ethics which subscribed to a "supreme" leadership. The cult of leadership surrounding Hitler also served to prevent the Nazi Party from fragmenting into warring factions, especially after Hitler had eliminated his rivals Ernst Röhm and Gregor Strasser in the purge of 1934.

Adolf Hitler's image in propaganda and the mass media

Although it remains unknown how many Germans genuinely believed in the Führer myth, even those Germans who were critical of Hitler and the Nazi regime believed in it by the late 1930s. Most Germans had been impressed by the apparent successes of the Nazi regime, which were all attributed to Hitler himself. For example, in 1938 after the Anschluss one report by the Social Democratic Party of Germany concluded:

> ***The Führer's foreign-policy statements strike a chord with many workers too; especially with young people. The firm stand the Führer has taken over the occupation of the Rhineland has been universally impressive. Many people are convinced that Germany's foreign-policy demands are justified and cannot be passed over. The last few days have been marked by big fresh advanced in the Führer's personal reputation, including among workers. There is no mistaking the enormous personal gains in credibility and prestige that Hitler has made, mainly perhaps among workers. The fact that Austria was subjugated by force has had little or no effect so far on the way the event is being judged here. The crucial point is that Austria has been annexed; not how. On the contrary, it is being taken for granted that the annexation was carried out with violence, since almost all the major successes of the system have been achieved with the use of violent methods.***

Up until 1938, the myth helped to convince most Germans that Hitler was a politician of conviction who was standing up for Germany's rights. Before the start of World War II, the Führer myth was almost complete, but it was still missing an important trait: Hitler being a military genius. Even before the start of the war, the Nazi propaganda machine was working towards portraying that image to the German people. On Hitler's 50th birthday on April 20, 1939, the military parade was aimed to portray him as "the future military leader, taking muster of his armed forces".

Adolf Hitler's image in propaganda and the mass media

Soldiers in the Reichswehr swearing the Hitler oath in 1934, with hands raised in the traditional schwurhand gesture

Adolf Hitler's image in propaganda and the mass media

The Hitler Oath (German: Führereid or Führer Oath)—also referred in English as the Soldier's Oath—refers to the oaths of allegiance sworn by officers and soldiers of the Wehrmacht and civil servants of Nazi Germany between 1934 and 1945. The oath pledged personal loyalty to Adolf Hitler rather than loyalty to the Weimar Constitution of the country. Historians view the personal oath of the Nazi Germany as an important psychological element to obey orders for committing war crimes, atrocities, and genocide. During the Nuremberg trials, many German officers unsuccessfully attempted to use the oath as a defence against charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Hitler deliberately kept his private life from the German public as a way to ensure his popularity, especially to German women. When questioned why he did not have a wife, he would reply, "I am married to Germany". German women genuinely believed that he was celibate and was devoted to Germany. Many German women idolized him and wrote to him, often in an erotic manner. Thousands of German women would wait outside of his Berghof home at the Obersalzberg just to get a glimpse of him; once they saw him, many would become hysterical and would shout to him things such as "Mein Führer, I would like to have a child by you!" Many of the women also tried to get close enough to him to kiss him, but were stopped and dragged away by his bodyguards. Hitler's relationship with his mistress, Eva Braun, remained a closely guarded secret, because Hitler believed that if women knew he had a wife, he would lose his appeal to them.

Adolf Hitler's image in propaganda and the mass media

Nazi propaganda indoctrinated Hitler Youth members to denounce anyone who showed any form of criticism about the Nazi regime. They were told that they were racially superior, and over time this engendered an open feeling of arrogance towards those whom they regarded as inferior. They were indoctrinated in racial myths about Aryan superiority, that they belonged to a master race, and that the Jews were an inferior race who destroyed cultures. The Nazis required all schools to teach a study about a supposed superior German culture which emphasised Teutonic superiority and encouraged the youth to become educated on German history, literature, things related to the Nordic race, preservation of their Aryan ancestry and devotion to Germany.

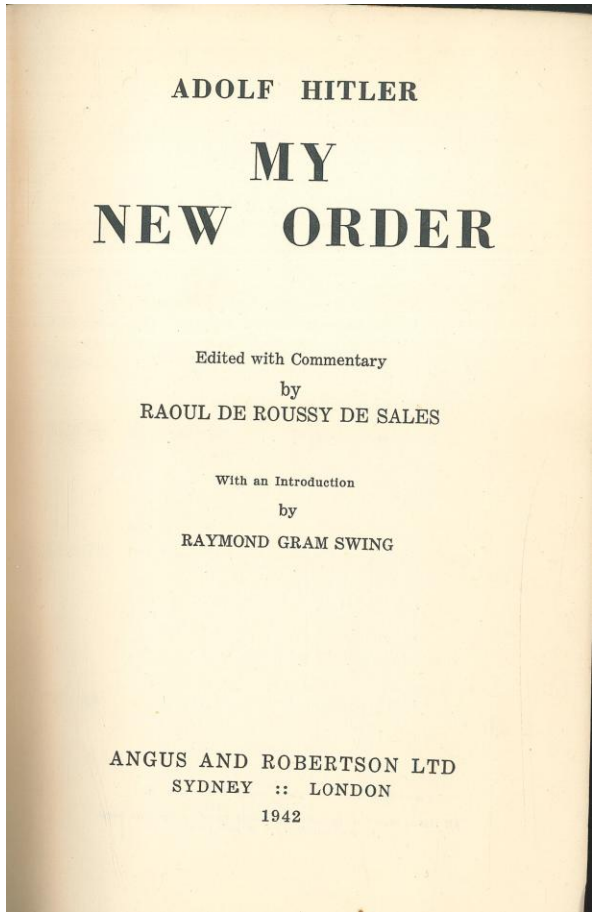
The Führer myth began to become exposed after Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union, which he thought would last a little longer than six weeks. As time went on and Germany began to suffer consistent military defeats after the Battle of Stalingrad in 1943, the Führer myth began to be exposed. Following multiple military defeats, and when it became obvious to ordinary Germans that Germany was going to lose the war, the myth began to become exposed and Hitler's popularity began to wane.

According to historian Lisa Pine, during the last phase of World War II, the Führer myth "collapsed entirely". Few German civilians mourned Hitler's suicide in 1945 since they were too busy dealing with the collapse of Germany or fleeing from the fighting. According to Hitler biographer John Toland, Nazism "burst like a bubble" without its leader.

Hitler speeches published with Donald Trump as cover illustration

Presidential candidate chosen to adorn reissue of the Nazi dictator's oratory in response to report that Trump keeps a copy by his bed

My New Order has attracted the attention of the press with the rise of Donald Trump as candidate for President of the United States because his first wife Ivana Trump revealed that Donald Trump reads a book of Hitler's collected speeches, My New Order, which he keeps in a cabinet by his bed. It can be seen that there are clear similarities between the speeches of Trump and the speeches of Hitler. Here are examples: They repeat themselves constantly, saying the same things over and over again. They never admit they have made a mistake nor do they ever take anything back. To any criticism, they respond by insults and name calling. They use a low form of language, with simple sentences even a person with the lowest level of education or with no education at all can understand. Another contrast is the sheer volume of words. Hitler gave a thousand speeches and spoke millions of words. Hitler communicated almost entirely through his speeches. Hitler's speeches were long, usually one and a half to two hours long. Trump made one of the longest speeches ever to accept the Republican Party nomination for President of the United States. His speech lasted one hour fifteen minutes.

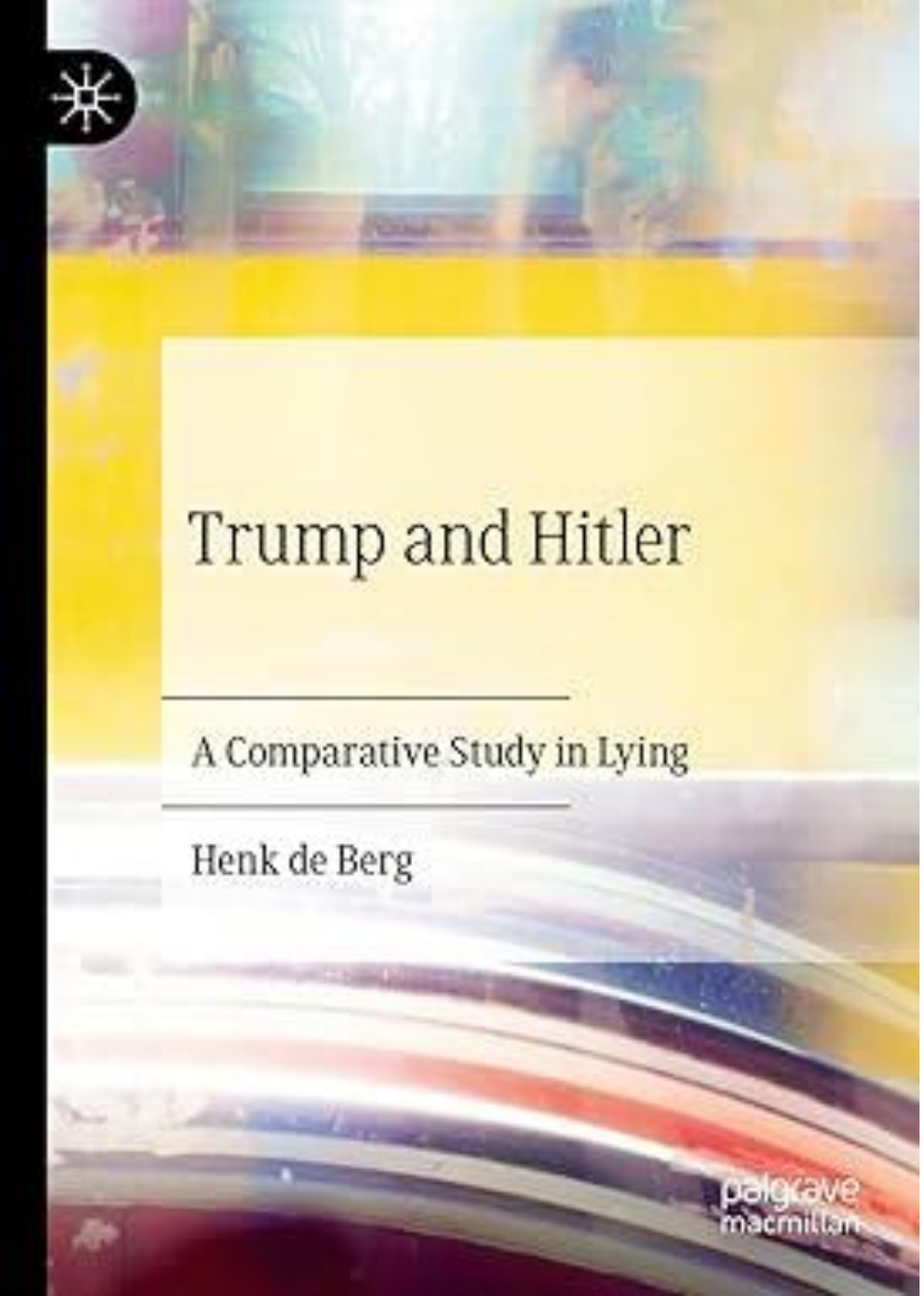


A collection of Hitler's speeches edited with commentary by journalist Raoul de Roussy de Sales, and with an introduction by Raymond Gram Swing."The understanding of Hitler, his origin, development and techniques, entails an analysis of his oratory."

In the wake of the election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States, Americans aren't sure what to make of their new Commander-In-Chief. No one really knows what kind of President Mr. Trump will be. Both the style and content of his approach to politics feels unprecedented, and yet, people are looking for historical parallels to provide some perspective.

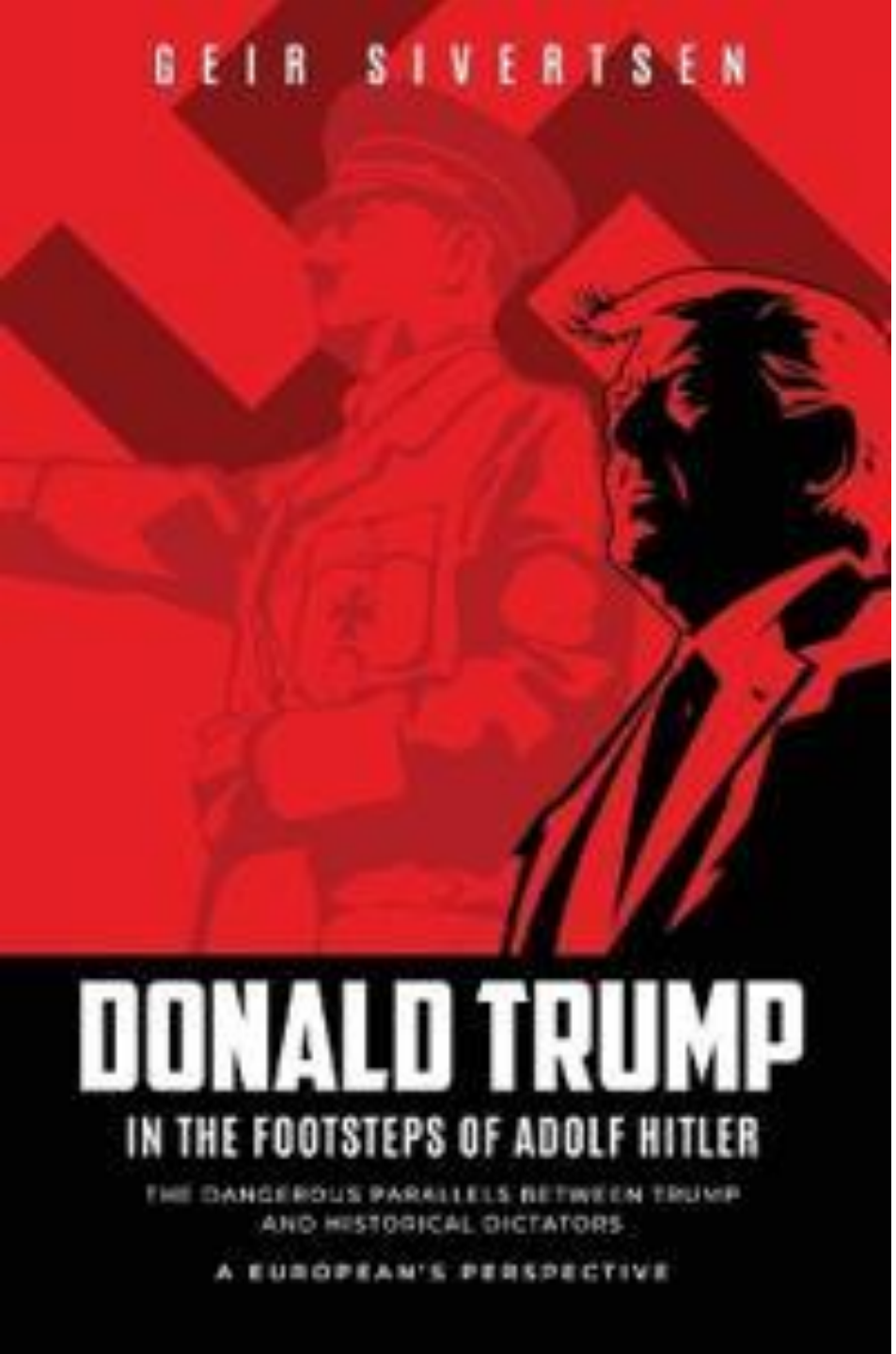
Like it or not, the most historical figure most commonly referred to as an analogue to Donald Trump is Adolf Hitler. Instead of dismissing the parallels, isn't it time that we confront them, and consider them seriously?

In this second edition of Trump and Hitler, Horace Bloom analyzes the personalities, careers, and ideologies of Hitler and Trump. The result is a nuanced portrait of the political moment we find ourselves in, acknowledging the importance of both similarities and differences between these two fascinating figures.



This book compares Trump and Hitler as political performance artists. It explores their populist self-staging and rhetorical strategies and explains how they connected with their respective audiences. It also analyses the two men's character, work ethic, and management style. In addition, the book addresses seemingly peripheral issues like the reasons behind Hitler's toothbrush moustache and Trump's hairstyle. By demystifying Hitler and Trump, the author throws new light on both of them.

A nine-page manuscript by Hitler outlining his speech to new military officers in Berlin in 1939 about eight months before the beginning of World War II fetched the top price of 34,000 euros ($40,300).

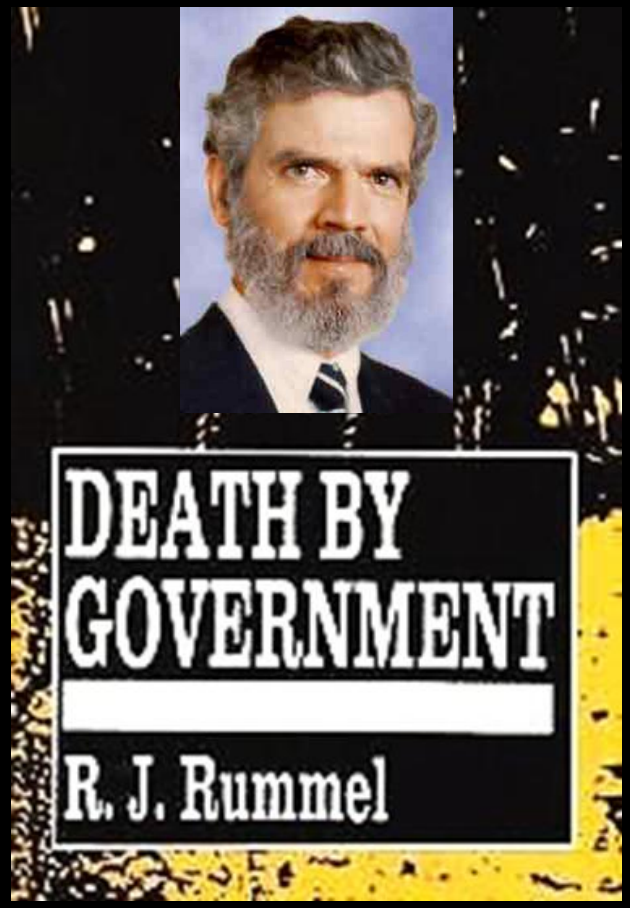

GEIR SIVERTSEN
DONALD TRUMP
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ADOLF HITLER
THE DANGEROUS PARALLELS BETWEEN TRUMP AND HISTORICAL DICTATORS
A EUROPEAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Donald Trump in the Footsteps of Adolf Hitler delves into the complex political landscape in the U.S. of recent years; it's penned by Geir Sivertsen, a retired European businessman with a deep understanding of American politics.

The book begins with Sivertsen's personal observations of Donald Trump's rise from a reality TV star to a presidential candidate with authoritarian leanings. It covers key events, including Trump's interactions with global leaders like Kim Jong Un and his transformation into a figure that Sivertsen demonstrates poses a significant threat to American democracy.

The author uses his unique European perspective to analyze Trump's policies and demeanor, arguing that his leadership style and actions have brought the United States close to a breaking point.

The upcoming 2024 presidential election serves as the backdrop for discussing critical issues-economy, abortion rights, voting rights, climate change, judicial institutions, and immigration; these are presented with the hope of encouraging Americans to look beyond the struggles of daily life and consider the long-term impacts of their choices. Sivertsen's aim is to enlighten readers about the serious stakes of re-electing Trump, advocating for a well-informed electorate that bases decisions on facts, not fear or falsehoods.



Power Kills

Killed 1900 – 1999: 272 million

Killed 3 000 B.C. – A.D 1800: 625 million

Among all the democide estimates appearing on this website, some have been revised upward. I have changed that for Mao's famine, 1958-1962, from zero to 38,000,000. And thus I have had to change the overall democide for the PRC (1928-1987) from 38,702,000 to 76,702,000. Details here.

I have changed my estimate for colonial democide from 870,000 to an additional 50,000,000. Details here.

Thus, the new world total: old total 1900-1999 = 174,000,000. New World total = 174,000,000 + 38,000,000 (new for China) + 50,000,000 (new for Colonies) = 262,000,000. (272 million Wikipedia)

Just to give perspective on this incredible murder by government, if all these bodies were laid head to toe, with the average height being 5', then they would circle the earth ten times. Also, this democide murdered 6 times more people than died in combat in all the foreign and internal wars of the century. Finally, given popular estimates of the dead in a major nuclear war, this total democide is as though such a war did occur, but with its dead spread over a century.

Rudolph Joseph Rummel (October 21, 1932 – March 2, 2014

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262 million corpses could have been enough to circle the Earth 10 times
40,075 km x 10 = 400,075 km
Approximately 40,007 miles of corpses around the Earth
10 times

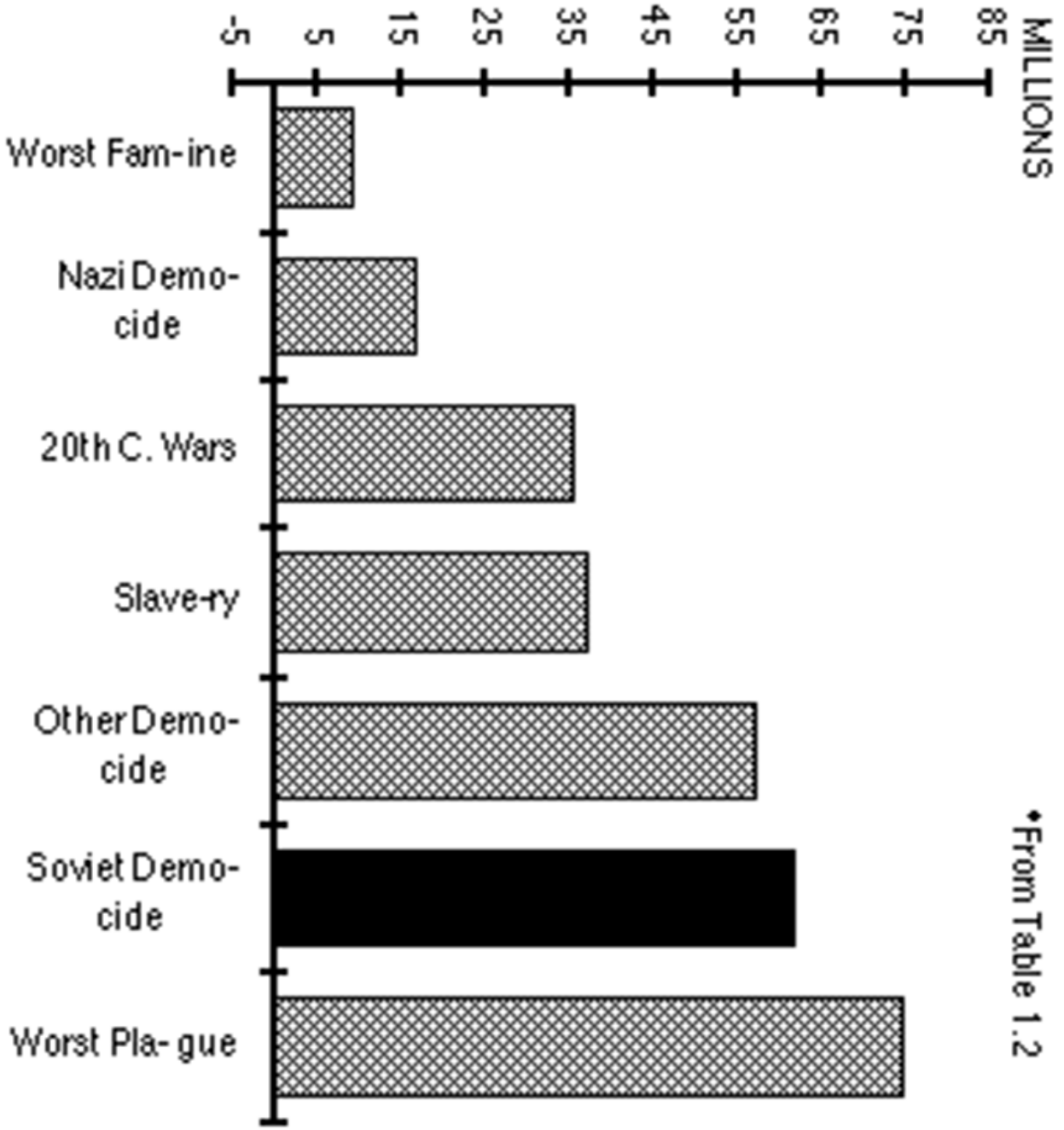
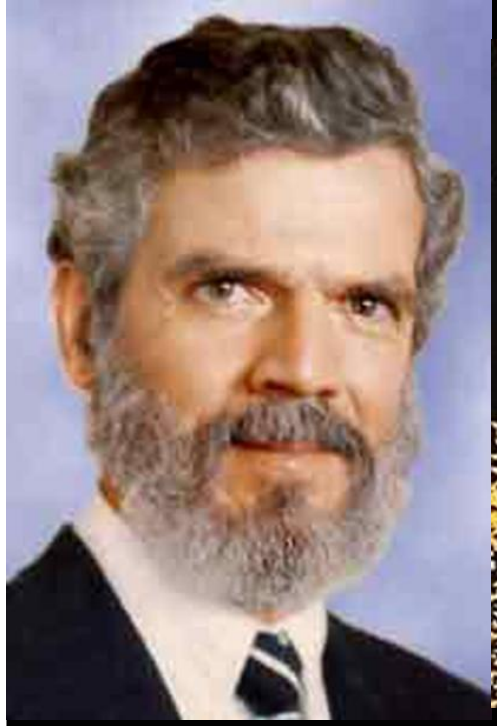
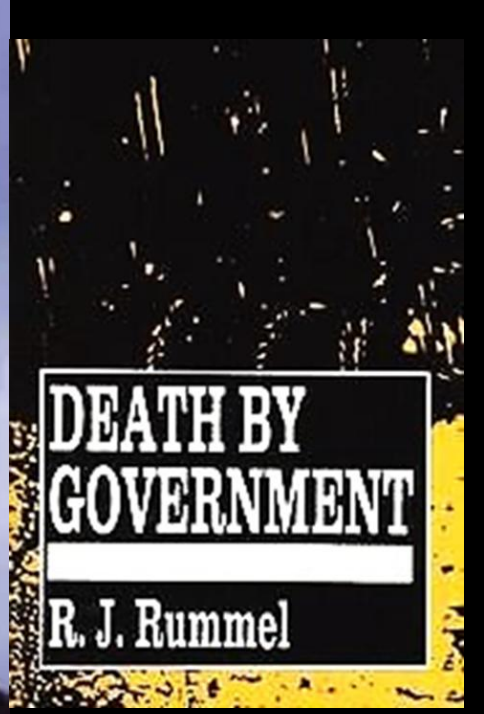


FIGURE 1.5
COMPARISONS OF SOVIET DEMOCIDE*

*From Table 1.2





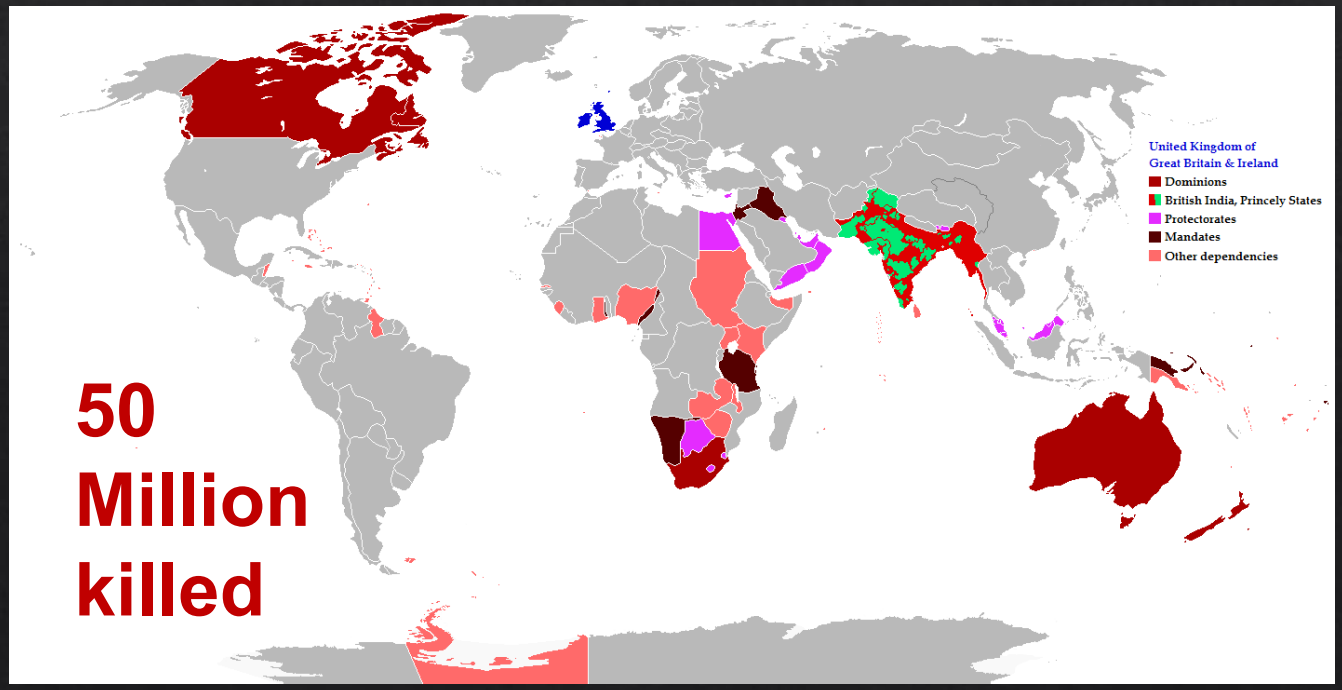
It is more deadly to rule a country with a Dictatorship. 75% of the historical exterminations of other people in history have been done by Countries with Dictatorships.

So why do the American people want a leader who has as his goal, to become a Dictator?

76 million
killed

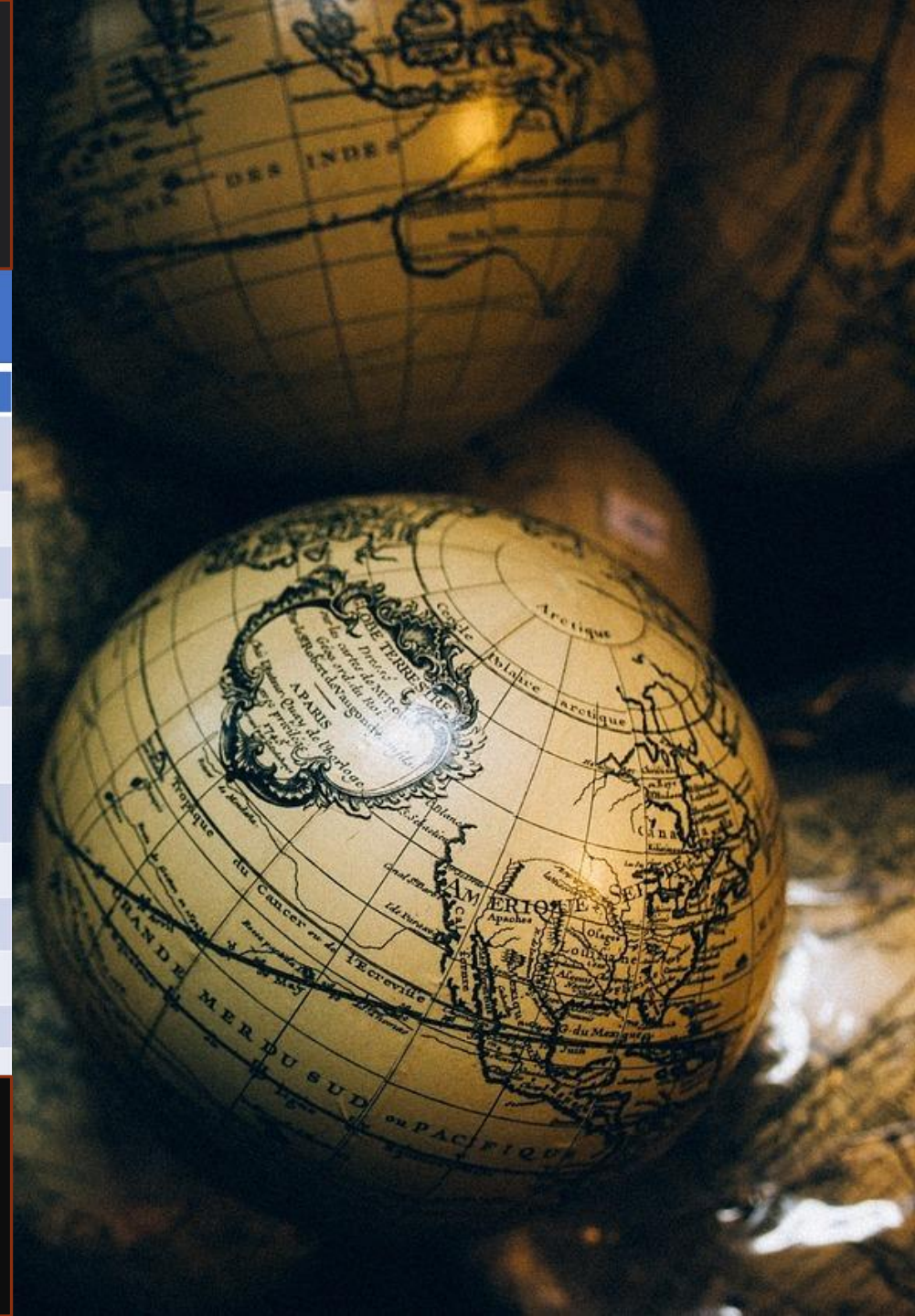
22 million
killed

62 million
killed


50
Million
killed
United Kingdom of
Great Britain & Ireland
Dominions
British India, Princely States
Protectorates
Mandates
Other dependencies

Killed 1900-99: 262 million

Murderer	years	dead in millions		total
China PRC)	1949-87	76 702	R J Rummel	
U.S.S.R	1917-87	61 911	R J Rummel	
Colonialism		50 000	R J Rummel	
Germany	1933-45	20 946	R J Rummel	
China (KMT)	1928-49	10 075	R J Rummel	
Other Mega Murderer		23 325	R J Rummel	
Other		17 710	R J Rummel	
World total	1900-87		R J Rummel	260 669 million
World total	1987-99		R J Rummel	1 331 million
World total	1900-99		R J Rummel	262 000 million



75 % Dictatorships

The 2024 Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index map

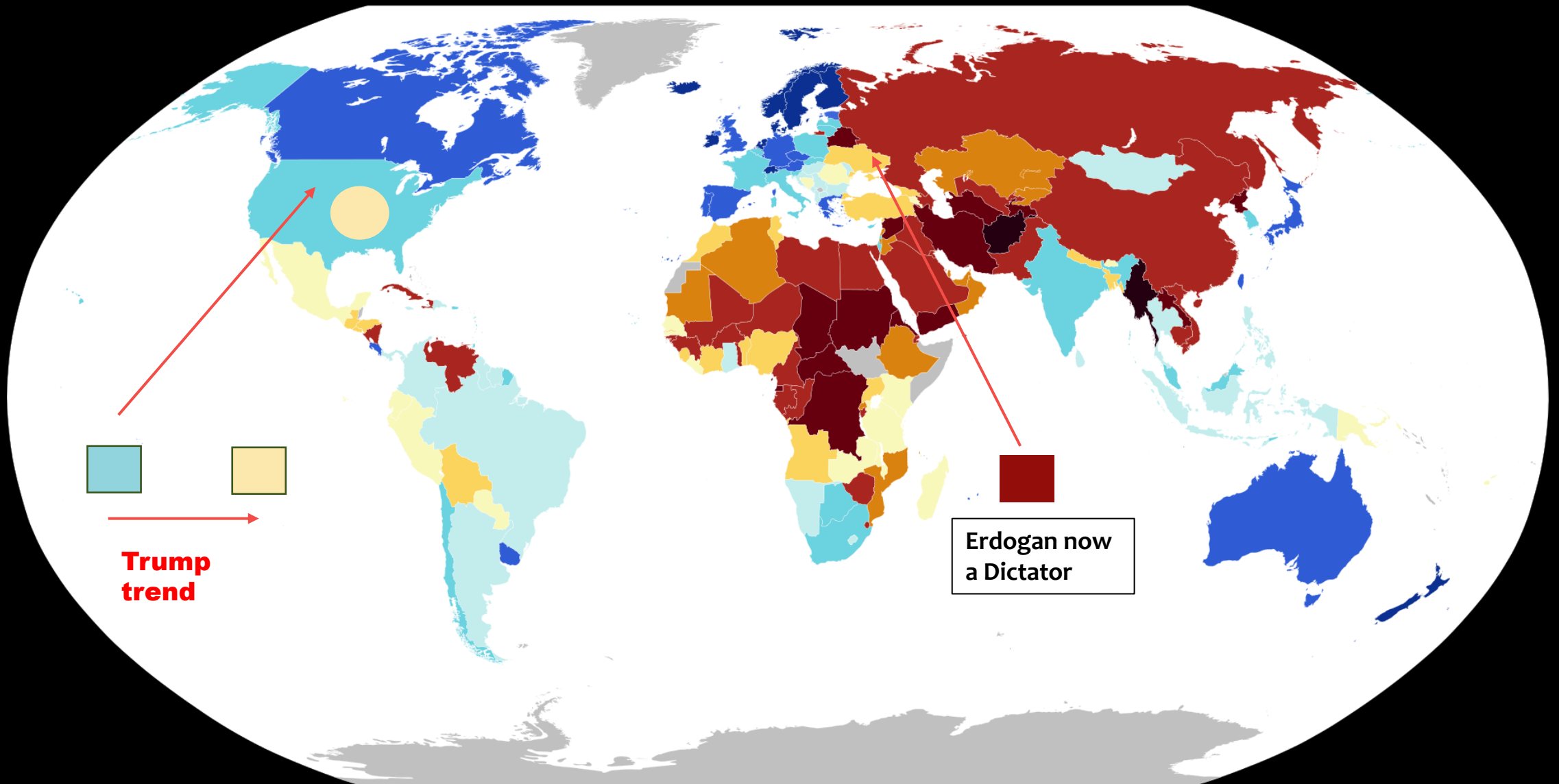
Full democracies

Flawed democracies

Hybrid regimes

Authoritarian regimes

The Democracy Index published by the Economist Group is an index measuring the quality of democracy across the world.



Full democracies are countries where civil liberties and fundamental political freedoms are not only respected but also reinforced by a political culture conducive to the thriving of democratic principles. These nations have a valid system of governmental checks and balances, an independent judiciary whose decisions are enforced, governments that function adequately, and diverse and independent media. These nations have only limited problems in democratic functioning.

Flawed democracies are countries where elections are fair and free and basic civil liberties are honoured but may have issues (e.g. media freedom infringement and minor suppression of political opposition and critics). These countries can have significant faults in other democratic aspects, including underdeveloped political culture, low levels of participation in politics, and issues in the functioning of governance.

Hybrid regimes are countries with regular electoral frauds, preventing them from being fair and free democracies. These countries commonly have governments that apply pressure on political opposition, non-independent judiciaries, widespread corruption, harassment and pressure placed on the media, anaemic rule of law, and more pronounced faults than flawed democracies in the realms of underdeveloped political culture, low levels of participation in politics, and issues in the functioning of governance.

Authoritarian regimes are countries where political pluralism is nonexistent or severely limited. These nations are often absolute monarchies or dictatorships, may have some conventional institutions of democracy but with meagre significance, infringements and abuses of civil liberties are commonplace, elections (if they take place) are not fair or free (including sham elections), the media is often state-owned or controlled by groups associated with the ruling regime, the judiciary is not independent, and censorship and suppression of governmental criticism are commonplace.